

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision of May 30, 2007 regarding the final rejection issued in the present application on August 23, 2005. By this Amendment, claims 3, 5-9, 11, 12, and 14 are amended, claims 16-23 are new, claims 2 and 15 are withdrawn, and claims 1 and 13 are canceled, leaving claims 4 and 10 unchanged.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating previously that claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 14 would be allowable if written in independent form. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 14 are each hereby written in independent form (including any intervening claims), and are therefore in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 4, 10, and 16-24 are therefore also in condition for allowance. New claims 16-23 are hereby added to more fully claim that which the Applicant considers to be the invention.

Request for Review of Withdrawn Claims 2, 15

37 CFR 1.141 provides that upon the allowance of a generic claim, the Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species and/or sub-species written in dependent form or otherwise including all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. The Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner consider the earlier withdrawal of claims 2 and 15 in light of claims 3, 6-7, 9, and 12 (which include all of the limitations of previous claim 1).

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art, that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment and early, favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any issues remain outstanding upon entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Applicants' Representative at (414) 225-8266.

Respectfully submitted,

BY 
Christopher B. Austin
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 41,592

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-6560

T:\CLIENTA\022229\9020\A2180513.1